

## **2016-2017 Year End Committee Report – Status of Women Committee Submitted by Nadine Arnold, Chair**

The mandate of the Status of Women Committee pertains to promoting ways of enhancing the status of women in the teaching profession and in society. The Status of Women Committee members for 2016-2017 were: Nadine Arnold (Chair), Jennifer Adams, Deborah Walker, Lori Richard, Keli Brewer, Mary-Claire MacMillan, Hope Lemoine (Provincial Executive), and Pamela Langille (Staff Liaison). The Committee held two meetings, the first meeting on October 14, 2016 and the second meeting on April 28, 2017. Due to the extenuating circumstances of the labour dispute this past year, the Committee canceled their January meeting but met for the full day on April 28 to ensure the business was completed.

The budget for the Status of Women Committee was \$5,490.00 for the 2016-2017 academic year. The committee spent a total of \$3,650.00.

With the 2016-2017 academic year only being the second year for the Committee, the October meeting carried forward from the previous year with further discussion on issues of concerns affecting women members within the Union, the workplace, and generally in society. From these discussions, the Committee established its priorities for the year, which included the following:

- Promote International Women’s Day by preparing and sending out an information packet to help Locals and workplaces, including the NSTU office, celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8.
- Begin organizing the first biennial provincially-sponsored conference under the Committee, which is scheduled for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Status of Women Committee had great success this year. The International Women’s Day packet was made available online on its own designated webpage on the NSTU website. The Committee spoke on issues with great passion and engagement. They quickly realized how many issues there are affecting women in the teaching profession and society and started to narrow down some potential topics for the first conference. For the incoming committee, it is recommended that they continue the work of narrowing down the topics and identify a theme for the conference at their first meeting in the fall.

As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members for their time and valuable contributions.

Nadine Arnold